

SCHEDULING RESOURCE FOR MEDICARE WELLNESS VISITS

To aid communication between patients and our staff when patients call to schedule any type of Medicare wellness visit, we developed a resource for schedulers that includes definitions, tips, and sample scripts.

Medicare wellness visits			Routine office visit/exam
<p>Welcome to Medicare visit (also known as Initial Preventive Physical Examination, or IPPE)</p> <p>Medicare pays 100%.</p> <p>Covered only once in a lifetime; must be provided within the first 12 months of patient’s enrollment in Medicare.</p> <p>A focused physical exam, review of the patient’s health, and development of a plan to keep the patient healthy. Not a comprehensive, “head-to-toe” physical.</p>	<p>Annual wellness visit (AWV)</p> <p>Medicare pays 100%.</p> <p>Initial AWV covered 12 months after enrollment in Medicare or 12 months after the Welcome to Medicare visit. Subsequent AWVs may be provided annually.</p> <p>A focused physical exam, review of the patient’s health, and development of a plan to keep the patient healthy. Not a comprehensive, “head-to-toe” physical.</p>	<p>Preventive physical exam</p> <p>Not covered by traditional Medicare but may be covered by Medicare Advantage plan; provided at patient’s request.</p> <p>A comprehensive, not focused, “head-to-toe” physical exam.</p>	<p>Evaluation and management visit</p> <p>Subject to the patient’s deductible/coinsurance/co-pay.</p> <p>A problem-oriented visit; may be described by patient or physician as follow-up appointment or recheck.</p>

Tips

The Welcome to Medicare visit and annual wellness visit are to review the patient’s wellness and develop a plan to keep the patient healthy. They include a focused physical exam – not a comprehensive, “head-to-toe” physical exam.

If the patient has one or two additional medical problems, the physician may choose to treat these at the same time as the wellness visit. This additional service will be billed separately and, therefore, is subject to the Medicare deductible/coinsurance/co-pay.

If the patient has multiple medical conditions that need treatment, we recommend scheduling a regular office visit and explaining that the wellness visit can be scheduled when he or she is feeling better.

If the patient requests a comprehensive physical exam in addition to a wellness visit, two separate appointments may be needed. Schedule the wellness visit and recommend that the patient schedule the comprehensive physical exam (which is not covered by Medicare) after the wellness visit if it still seems necessary.



FPM Toolbox To find more practice resources, visit <https://www.aafp.org/fpm/toolbox>.

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